

CITIZENSHIP AND THE HUMANITIES

by Robert Benedetti
Dean of the College
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In March, Robert Benedetti will begin a two-year term as chair of the California Council for the Humanities.

Please Note: To join an online discussion of issues raised in this article, please see the directions at the bottom of page six.

There are many reasons to reflect on literature, philosophy, history and cultural criticism (the humanities). These excursions focus our personal meditations and fulfill our private needs. They exercise the mind and help us find meaning within the humdrum of life. Who would deny that the humanities refresh the soul?

Loss of Confidence

But the humanities promise public as well as private rewards. Republics throughout history have urged citizens to reflect upon their cultural heritage. Cicero encouraged every Roman to master the liberal arts. In a letter, Jefferson outlined a broad education for his second cousin, arguing that great books should become lifelong friends for serious democrats. In fact, Jefferson expected all citizens to know the humanities, founding a university to provide them access.

However, our generation has lost confidence in cultural reflection. Allen Bloom, in *The Closing of the American Mind*, worries that our brightest and best have educations too narrow to appreciate Western



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culture. Even commentators who do not share Professor Bloom's perspective agree that humanities have not received enough attention in our public squares. The Heritage Foundation and Harvard's JFK School, in preparing our congressional representatives for leadership, rehash the economics of the federal budget, but ignore larger questions about the values government should serve.

Some justify this neglect with the logic of C.P. Snow and suggest that science is more relevant for those making political decisions. We encourage legislators to govern by the utilitarian standard, the greatest good for the greatest number. Since we increasingly define the greatest good in material terms, it is not difficult to understand why

Knowing more about nuclear energy does not clarify whether we should value electricity more than wilderness.

technological advance can be seen as the primary goal of public policy. Therefore, an understanding of the science which makes technology possible has often been given priority.

Further, the methods of science applied to society promised to create a social science which would allow government to organize the rest of us in useful ways. If we could learn the natural laws of society, couldn't we usher in a golden age? This dream is still alive even if the reality eludes our grasp.

Arguments for Reflection

Students of the humanities are sometimes slow to take up such challenges and sometimes confuse the public with arguments over what and how to read. Still, there are strong arguments for placing literature, philosophy, history, and other works of cultural reflection on every citizen's agenda, reasons that science does not subsume and that are persuasive no matter what the "canon."

First, while science details the means available to reach our goals, it does not uncover what our goals should be. To create communities and to move them forward, we need to discover common commitments; means are secondary when traditions remain diverse and confused. Knowing more about nuclear energy does not clarify whether we should value electricity more than wilderness. We need to ask such questions directly, and the humanities do precisely that.

Secondly, values grow out of individual experience. We often lack words to articulate feelings. The humanities provide linguistic strategies to communicate what we hold dear and would preserve. In other words, the humanities not only focus attention on values, but provide a vocabulary for sharing them. Without Wordsworth, could we have captured the sublime connection between nature and the human spirit?

Continued on page six.

"MEMORIES OF CHESTER AND BILLY"

COMMEMORATING THEODORE DREISER'S *AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY*

FEBRUARY 16 - MARCH 27



Chester Gillette in 1906.



Grace "Billy" Brown in 1905.

Photos courtesy of the Herlihy County Historical Society.

The conviction and execution of Chester Gillette for the 1906 murder of his pregnant sweetheart Grace "Billy" Brown inspired Theodore Dreiser's great novel *An American Tragedy*.

The "Memories of Chester and Billy" project will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the publication of the book that marked a second literary renaissance in America and profoundly influenced writers and artists of succeeding generations. The project features more than a dozen events, including lectures, exhibits, performances, film discussions, and readings. All will be held in San Diego between February 16 and March 27.

For additional information and for a listing of separate events, please call 619/594-6902. A partial listing of events can also be found in the Humanities Calendar on pages four and five of this newsletter and on the Calendar page of the CCH web site at <http://www.calhum.org/>.

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Santa Monica gallery owner Ruth Bloom, consultant Mary Curtin, State Librarian Kevin Starr and UC Davis professor Patricia A. Turner will join the board in March.

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The California Council for the Humanities is a state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Humanities Network is published quarterly and mailed to anyone who requests it from the San Francisco office.

Grants Awarded

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

A.C.T. Perspectives

Sponsor: American Conservatory Theater, San Francisco

Project Director: Larry Biederman and Jerome Moskowitz

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

This award supports the presentation of three panel discussion programs in the American Conservatory Theater's "A.C.T.'s Perspectives," a series of free public programs examining humanities themes raised by the plays in A.C.T.'s mainstage productions. "The Transformation of Character," scheduled for February 5, will explore issues of character, language and metaphor in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. On March 11, "Adventures in Language" will explore the relationship between the language of drama and the language of contemporary culture, based in part on Eric Overmyer's *Dark Rapture*. And on April 29, "The Playwright and the Actor" will link the development of Stanislavsky's revolutionary actor training methods to such works of psychological realism as Chekov's *The Cherry Orchard*.

Symposium on California and Philippine History: 1571 to 1996

Sponsor: University of the Pacific, Stockton

Project Director: Dennis O. Flynn and James Sobredo

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

Though the Filipino community established itself in California in the 16th century, the contributions of Filipino culture to California history and American life are largely unknown. This grant funds a public symposium on California and Philippine history intended to explore the evolution of Filipino culture in North America. Panelists and participants will examine the contemporary Philippine American community, now comprising the largest Asian American presence in California, and discuss the ramifications of its long history, from the founding of Manila and the rise of the Spanish galleon trade up to the present. Scheduled for April 5-7, 1996 at the University of the Pacific in Stockton.

San Francisco: From Diversity to Inclusivity

Sponsor: San Francisco Public Library

Project Director: Laura Lent

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

This award supports a two-part symposium exploring ideas of culture and citizenship by focusing on the history of San Francisco, one of the three most ethnically diverse communities in the United States. The symposium sessions, which begin in late 1996, complement two exhibitions about diversity and inclusivity that will mark the opening of San Francisco's new Main Library. Session one looks at how city residents and the city's public spaces exemplify both diverse, multicultural social practices and an American spirit of innovation and inventiveness. Session two addresses dilemmas of contemporary political philosophy as illustrated by San Francisco's history of social protest and political activism.



From "A.C.T. Perspectives." Themes raised in Shakespeare's *The Tempest* are the focus of the first discussion in the series. Shown here, David Strathairn as Prospero. Photo by Scott Peterson, courtesy of the American Conservatory Theater.



From "San Francisco: From Diversity to Inclusivity." Civil rights pioneers Joseph and Mary Tape sued the San Francisco Board of Education in 1884 because their daughter was denied access to public school. Photo courtesy of the San Francisco Public Library and Jeannette Kim.

MEDIA PROJECTS

PRODUCTION

The U.S.- Mexican War (1846-1848)

Sponsor: KERA, North Texas Public Broadcasting, Dallas, TX

Project Director: Sylvia Komatsu

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in matching funds if \$20,000 is raised in outside gifts

As a result of the U.S.-Mexican War, Mexico lost nearly half its territory, and the U.S. gained more than half a million square miles of land, including California, effectively reshaping the cultural and political landscape of the continent. This grant funds production of a three-hour series examining the causes and legacies of the war from both the Mexican and the American perspectives. The project includes a unique collaboration of scholars from both nations which seeks to illuminate the full range of historical, social and cultural forces that influenced this struggle for land, identity and power.

Yield to Total Elation: The Life and Work of Achilles Rizzoli

Sponsor: Hearts and Hands Media Arts, San Francisco

Project Director: Pat Ferrero

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in matching funds if \$20,000 is raised in outside gifts

This grant funds production of a half-hour film depicting the life and work of Achilles G. Rizzoli (1896-1981), son of Italian-Swiss immigrants, a lifelong bachelor, and an architectural draftsman who worked quietly for decades at a San Francisco design firm while engaged in a secret effort to record and interpret the hallucinations he experienced. The film focuses on three themes: the distinction between inspiration and madness, the artist as visionary, and the role of the working-class artisan in the era of mass culture.

Comrades and Chicken Ranchers

Sponsor: Film Arts Foundation, San Francisco

Project Director: Zelda Bronstein

Amount of Award: \$20,000 in matching funds if \$40,000 is raised in outside gifts

This grant is for the production of a six-part radio documentary about the history of the radical Jewish chicken ranchers who settled in Petaluma, California in the early twentieth century. The documentary explores the continuity and discontinuity among three generations of this community and moves between the larger political events which affected it—including the Depression, the Holocaust, the founding of the state of Israel, the sixties counterculture—and dimensions of local experience ranging from the daily work of chicken ranching to the 1935 tar-and-feathering of a Jewish rancher and political organizer.



From "Yield to Total Elation." Achilles Rizzoli's "Mr. Deichmann's Motlier Symbolically Sketched." Mr. Deichmann was Rizzoli's boss at the architectural firm. Image courtesy of Hearts and Hands Media Arts.

Grants Awarded

S C R I P T S

Capture the Muse with Rita Dove

Sponsor: Big Ideo Medio, San Francisco

Project Director: Pamela Moy

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

This three-part video documentary will explore how poetry, though often unnoticed, pervades everyday life. Guided by former Poet Laureate Rita Dove, the series also seeks to deepen our understanding of poetry and its relationship to human experience by discussing the continuing presence of ancient oral traditions in modern life, exploring connections between language and rhythm, and seeking the sources of poetic inspiration in poems written by everyday Americans.

The Transforming Spirit: The Pentecostal Movement in Hispanic Los Angeles

Sponsor: Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles

Project Director: Carlos Alberto Torres

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

The worldwide growth of the Pentecostal movement is nowhere more evident than in its rapid expansion into the Hispanic community of 20th century Los Angeles. This script for a half-hour video focuses on the proliferation of storefront churches and their congregations and examines how this emerging movement of Hispanic Pentecostalism relates to the more general historical traditions and cultural attributes of Pentecostalism in the U.S.

Black Westerners

Sponsor: Utah Film and Video Center, Salt Lake City, Utah

Project Director: Anne Watson

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

African Americans have been living west of the Mississippi since the days of Spanish exploration and have participated in the settlement of the West in roles ranging from explorers and traders to journalists, artists, and investors. This script project for five one-hour film documentaries draws on a cross-section of humanities perspectives to tell this story. This award is in particular support of the final episode, which focuses on the black experience in California from statehood to the present.

The History of Affirmative Action

Sponsor: Cotticus Corporation, Berkeley

Project Director: Marjorie Dobkin

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

This award supports script development for a video documentary on the history of affirmative action policy, which has generated debate in California from the Bakke decision in 1978 to the pending Civil Rights Initiative. The project seeks to inform the discussion by providing a politically balanced interpretation that places the current debate in a broader historical context.



From "The Transforming Spirit." Pentecostal minister blessing Guatemalan immigrant in a converted pornographic movie house on Western Avenue in Los Angeles. Photo courtesy of Dr. Steven C. Williams.

Riding the Rails: Children of the Great Depression

Sponsor: Medio Network, New York, NY

Project Director: Michael Uys and Lexy Lovell

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

Among those whose lives were deeply affected by the Great Depression was a surprisingly large population of youths who rode out the Depression by riding the rails. This script for a one-hour 16mm documentary film focuses on 10 individuals who recount their personal experiences as youngsters riding the freight trains. The film illustrates the social, economic, and political phenomenon of the Great Depression as told through these stories, and examines how cultural influences, poverty, and racism were factors in this railway movement of children and adolescents.

Wheels: An Interactive Excavation of San Francisco's Lost History

Sponsor: Bay Area Center for Art and Technology, San Francisco

Project Director: Chris Carlsson

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

This award supports the production of an interactive multimedia project drawing on public and private archival materials to illustrate the largely untold stories of people's daily lives in San Francisco since its earliest days, as well as the hidden environmental history of the region. The project, which will also attempt to link the separated histories of San Francisco and illustrate the historical connections existing between San Francisco's various communities, will be presented in a number of interactive formats—kiosks, a CD-ROM and as a Web site—in hopes of pioneering a new kind of "participatory history" available only through these newer digital technologies.

The Legend of Bop City

Sponsor: Bay Area Video Coalition, San Francisco

Project Director: Carol P. Chamberland

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

From 1950 to 1965, Jimbo's Bop City in San Francisco's Fillmore district was a world famous spot for jazz musicians to play and socialize. Such jazz legends as Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, and Miles Davis were regulars at Jimbo's Bop City, often arriving at the club after their formal gigs in Bay Area hotels and dinner clubs. This script project relies on access to a vast private collection of memorabilia, recordings, and photographs to tell the story of the rise and demise of this popular San Francisco landmark. The project also examines the relationship of Bop City to the jazz scene in America and abroad, and how Bop City's unique environment was shaped by the political and social scene of postwar America and the dawning of the Civil Rights movement.



From "The Legend of Bop City." Jamming at Jimbo's Bop City in the 1950s. Courtesy of the collection of Jimbo Edwards and Carol P. Chamberland.

HUMANITIES

WINTER Calendar

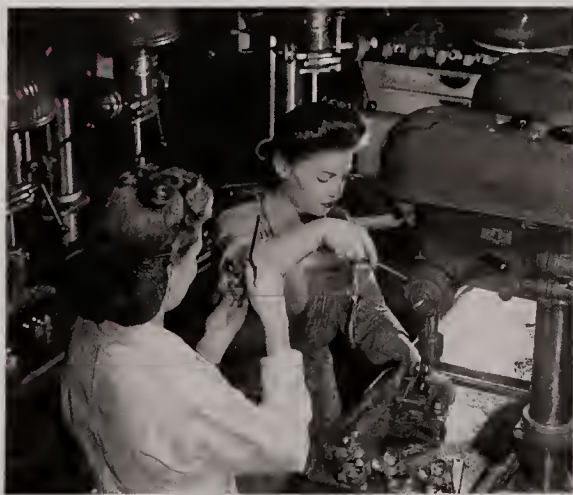
The public humanities programs listed on these two pages were either created or supported by the California Council for the Humanities. Please note that dates and times should be confirmed with the local sponsors. These listings are often provided to CCH well before final arrangements are made.

Please also check the monthly calendar listings on the Council's world wide web pages at <http://www.calhum.org/>.

EXHIBITS

Through Feb. 11 "Legacy: Portrait of Holocaust Survivors" is an exhibition of photographs of Bay Area Holocaust survivors taken by Evvy Eisen with accompanying autobiographical texts. Marin Theater Company, 397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley. 415/499-8350 for information.

Through Feb. 18 "ar'kiv: The California File" is an exhibit of historical photographs from the California Museum of Photography's archives including images of landscape, industry, people, events, architecture, advertising and others subjects. The photographs of the West date from 1880 to the late 1960s. They are complemented by a computer-based display allowing visitors to investigate other aspects of California history. At the California Museum of Photography, UC Riverside. Please call 909/787-4787 for more information.



"Women in Wartime," circa 1945 photo from the Will Connell Archive is part of the "ar'kiv" project. Photo courtesy of the UC Riverside California Museum of Photography.

Through Mar. 31 "Between Two Worlds: The People of the Border" is a CERA-sponsored exhibit of photographs by photojournalist Donald Bartletti exploring perspectives on border life and migration. At the Grace Hudson Museum, 431 S. Main St., Ukiah. 707/459-2736.



From the "Produce for Victory" exhibition. The "Keep Us Flying" poster (1943) featuring airman Robert Deitz was one of the few World War II posters depicting African Americans. Courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and the U.S. Treasury.

Through Mar. 31 "Produce for Victory: Posters on the Homefront, 1941-1945" is a CERA-sponsored SITES exhibit of World War II patriotic posters. The exhibit explores the history and effect on production of these efforts to increase agricultural and industrial output. At the Lompoc Museum, 200 South H Street, Lompoc. 805/736-3888.

Through Apr. 7 "Theodore Dreiser: His World and Legacy" is a photographic exhibit about the author of such classic American novels as *An American Tragedy*. Part of the "Memories of Chester and Billy" project. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street.

Feb. 11 - Mar. 4 The "Legacy: Portrait of Holocaust Survivors" exhibit (see above) moves to the Dance Palace in Point Reyes Station. 415/663-1075.

Mar. 1 - 31 "Gum San: Land of the Golden Mountain" is a CERA-sponsored exhibit of artifacts, historical photographs and other documents exploring the presence and importance of the Chinese in the region's history. At the Community Memorial Museum, 1333 Butte House Road, Yuba City. 916/741-7141.

Apr. 10 - May 12 The "Between Two Worlds: The People of the Border" exhibit (see above) travels to the Museum of History & Art, 225 South Euclid Ave., Ontario. 909/983-3198.

Apr. 17 - Jun. 16 The "Gum San" exhibit (see above) travels to the Grace Hudson Museum, 431 S. Main St., Ukiah. 707/459-2736.

May 1 - Jun. 16 The "Produce for Victory" exhibit (see above) travels to the Corona Public Library Heritage Room, 650 S. Main, Corona. 909/736-2386.

EVENTS

Jan. 28 "California Native Literature: The Poetry of Janice Gould" is a discussion held in conjunction with "The Carver's Art" exhibition. Gould will discuss the sources of contemporary Native Californian literature. 2 p.m. At the Phoebe Hearst Museum, 103 Kroeber Hall, UC Berkeley. For more information, please call 510/642-3681.



Theodore Dreiser at age 54 in 1925, about the time he was working on *An American Tragedy*. Photo courtesy of the Van Pelt Library, University of Pennsylvania.



From the "Shades of L.A." project. Photo of relatives of the Esfandiari family in Kerman, Iran (circa 1935). Courtesy of the Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection.

Feb. 4 The "Shades of L.A." project symposium will mark the opening of an exhibit of photographs drawn from the latest series of Photo Days in this broad effort to document individual and community life in Los Angeles and Southern California. 1 p.m. At the Los Angeles Central Library, 630 E. Fifth Street. 213/228-7403.

Feb. 5 "The Transformation of Character" is a panel discussion held as part of the "A.C.T. Perspectives" series. Professors Stephen Greenblatt and Harry Berger and theater historian Larry Reed will facilitate this discussion on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. 7 p.m. At the Geary Theater, 413 Geary Street, San Francisco. Please call 415/439-2449.

Feb. 6 "The Persistence of the 'Frontier Thesis' in America" is a lecture by Dr. Howard Kushner, professor of history at San Diego State University. Kushner will discuss how the view of early American settlers as heroes mythologizes their suicidal and self-destructive behavior. Part of the "Border Voices III: The Search for American Identity" series. 7 p.m. At Scripps Ranch High School, 10410 Trenea Street, San Diego. 619/594-3007.

Feb. 6 "Thomas Jefferson in Sutter Creek" features award-winning scholar Clay Jenkinson in a three-part chautauqua presentation about the nation's third president. 7:30 p.m. At the Sutter Creek Theater. Contact Ron Mittelbrunn at 209/223-0351.

Feb. 15 "Thomas Jefferson in San Juan Bautista" features award-winning scholar Clay Jenkinson in a three-part chautauqua presentation about the nation's third president. 7 p.m. At Plaza Hall Ballroom, San Juan Bautista State Historic Park, corner of Second St. & Washington. Please contact Veronica Murray at 408/623-4661 for more information.

Feb. 16 "Theodore Dreiser: The Road to Tragedy" is a lecture/discussion by Richard Lingeman, executive editor of *The Nation* and biographer of Theodore Dreiser. It's the first of more than a dozen lectures, performances and exhibits in the "Memories of Chester and Billy" project, a CCH-supported six-week commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the publication of Theodore Dreiser's great novel *An American Tragedy*. 6:30 p.m. At Smith Recital Hall, Music Building, San Diego State University. For more information, call 619/594-6902.

Feb. 21 "Thomas Jefferson in Sonora" features award-winning scholar Clay Jenkinson in a three-part chautauqua presentation about the nation's third president. 7 p.m. At Opera Hall, 250 S. Washington. Contact Pat Perry at 209/532-4541 for more information.

Feb. 24 Public events for the opening of the "California Indian Basketweaver-Continuing Traditions" exhibit include talks, films, demonstrations and discussions. Beginning at 11 a.m. History Museum of Santa Cruz County, First & Cooper Streets, Santa Cruz. 408/425-7278

Feb. 28 "Thomas Jefferson in Murphys" features award-winning scholar Clay Jenkinson in a three-part chautauqua presentation about the nation's third president. 7 p.m. At the Black Bart Playhouse. Contact Penny West at 209/754-1774 for more information.



Clay Jenkinson as Thomas Jefferson.

Mar. 1 "Working Girls, Morality and Urban Dangers in Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*" is a panel discussion presented as part of the "Memories of Chester and Billy" symposium. A staged reading of love letters of Chester and Billy, whose lives inspired Dreiser's novel, will accompany the discussion. 6:30 p.m. At the Smith Recital Hall, San Diego State University. 619/594-6902.

Mar. 3 & 17 Screenings of films based on Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy* will be held as part of the symposium "Memories of Chester and Billy." The films include von Sternberg's 1931 *An American Tragedy* and George Stevens' 1951 *A Place in the Sun*. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion led by professor Michael Real, filmmaker Jack Ofield, and film lecturer Greg Kahn. 2 p.m. At the San Diego Central Library Auditorium. 619/594-6902 to confirm dates and times.

Mar. 11 "American Language in Contemporary Literature" is a panel discussion held as part of the "A.C.T. Perspectives" series. Humanities professor Marjorie Perloff, drama professor Marc Robinson, and playwright Mac Wellman will lead this discussion of themes explored in the play *Dark Rapture*. 7 p.m. At the Geary Theater, 413 Geary Street, San Francisco. 415/439-2449.

Mar. 15 "Theodore Dreiser: Journalist and Artist" is a discussion presented as part of the "Memories of Chester and Billy" symposium. James K. Buckalew, journalism professor, and Thomas P. Riggio, professor and editor of The Pennsylvania Edition of Theodore Dreiser, will lead the discussion. 6:30 p.m. Smith Recital Hall, San Diego State University. 619/594-6902.

Mar. 15 Art historian Betsy Fahlman will lead a discussion exploring themes of the "Produce for Victory" exhibition (see exhibits listings). 7 p.m. Lompoc Museum, 200 H Street. 805/736-3888

Apr. 5 - 7 The "California and Philippine History: 1571-1996" symposium will be held at UOP in Stockton. Sessions include participants from Spain, the Philippines and the U.S. covering the history and contributions of Filipino culture in California and North America. Various locations on the University of Pacific Stockton campus, 3601 N. Pacific Ave. 209/946-2913.

Apr. 12 "On-Going Traditions and Rituals of Being" is a lecture/performance/discussion by Native American flutist R. Carlos Nakai. Part of the "Border Voices III: The Search for American Identity" series. 7 p.m. Copley Symphony Hall, San Diego. 619/594-3007.



R. Carlos Nakai

Apr. 13 "Crossing Borders: Construction of a Fluid National Identity" is a lecture/discussion by Dr. Paula Gunn Allen, professor of English at UCLA. It is the culminating program in the "Border Voices III: The Search for American Identity" New Humanities lecture series. 7 p.m. Copley Auditorium, Balboa Park, San Diego. 619/594-3007.

Apr. 12 - 13 "Border Voices/New Voices Poetry and Humanities Fair," San Diego's third annual multicultural poetry and humanities fair, will be held in Balboa Park. Call 619/594-3007 for more information.

Apr. 29 "The Playwright and the Actor: New Forms and New Methods" is a panel discussion held as part of the "A.C.T. Perspectives" series. The discussion will focus on Chekov's play *The Cherry Orchard* and Stanislavsky's method of study and acting. 7 p.m. At the Geary Theater, 413 Geary Street, San Francisco. 415/439-2449.

Humanities News

Council Meets in Riverside in March

The California Council for the Humanities' quarterly meeting will be held at the Mission Inn, 3649 Seventh Street, Riverside on March 7, 8, and 9. Exact times for Council sessions had not been determined as this issue went to press. For additional information, please contact the Council's San Francisco office.

Katie McMurran Joins Council Staff

Katie McMurran, a 1995 graduate of UC Berkeley, has joined the Council's San Francisco staff as office assistant. It's her voice you are most likely to hear first when you call the San Francisco office.

McMurran holds a bachelor's degree in music and graduated from Berkeley with high honors. While an undergraduate, she was a member of the Cal Performances Student Committee for the Arts and the University Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive Student Committee. She was also a member of the Albany Community Orchestra and the UC Berkeley Chorus. McMurran succeeds Chin-ju (Justine) Park, who has taken a position at the Commonwealth Club of California.

Central Valley Literature Project Coordinator Hired

Ann Andersen, a native of Modesto and a resident of Merced, has been selected to coordinate the Council's "Rambling Routes" project, the first-ever large-scale public exploration of writers and writings from California's Central Valley.

Andersen is currently a special consultant for CSU Sacramento and a trustee for the Merced Union High School District. She has broad experience in community leadership, library services and grant writing and management. In 1992, she was part of the team that organized the very successful Merced leg of the Council's "Columbus and After" traveling chautauqua program, and in 1988 she was project director for Council-supported public exhibition at the Merced County Library.

"Rambling Routes" is a vast literature project scheduled to take place in Redding, Chico, Yuba City, Sacramento, Stockton, Modesto, Merced, Fresno, Visalia and Bakersfield beginning in the Fall of 1996 and continuing into the Spring of 1997. Public programs will include a "Writers in Discussion" series featuring such prominent writers as Gary Soto, Maxine Hong Kingston, Richard Rodriguez, Ernest J. Finney, and Gerald Haslam. In-depth reading-and-discussion groups, local exhibits, and a variety of additional community-created historical and literary programs are also planned. Watch for additional information about the "Rambling Routes" Central Valley literature project in upcoming issues of this newsletter.

Summer Seminars and Institutes for School Teachers

The National Endowment for the Humanities' Division of Education Programs is offering 50 seminars and 18 institutes on a variety of topics for K-12 teachers. A listing of the 1996 summer institutes and seminars can be obtained by contacting the Division of Education Programs, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506; 202/606-8377. But PLEASE NOTE: Teachers interested in participating in either a seminar or an institute need to write to the project director directly to request additional information and application materials. The deadline for most applications is March 1, 1996.

Participants in Summer Institutes generally have their room, board and supplies paid for by the project and receive an additional stipend. All teachers selected to participate in a Summer Seminar will be awarded a stipend of \$2,450, \$2,825, or \$3,200 (depending on the length of the seminar) to cover travel costs to and from the seminar location, books and other research expenses, and living expenses.

Generally speaking, Americans teaching full time in public, private, and church-affiliated schools are eligible to apply to seminars and institutes. Librarians and school administrators are eligible to apply for seminars and may also be eligible for some institutes.

Proposal-Writing Workshops Offered

Workshops are scheduled during February for people interested in submitting grant proposals at the Council's April 1 deadline

In San Francisco:

For Media Project proposals

Wednesday, February 14 10:30 a.m. to noon

For Public Project proposals

Thursday, February 14 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

In Los Angeles

Thursday, February 15 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday, February 16 10:30 a.m. to noon

In San Diego

Tuesday, February 20 10:30 a.m. to noon

The workshops are free, but advance registration is required. Please call the nearest Council office (415/391-1474 in San Francisco, 213/623-5993 in Los Angeles, and 619/232-4020 in San Diego) to register and confirm dates and locations. Please also request and read the 1995-1996 *Guide to the Grant Program* before attending the workshop.

More Summer Institutes for High School History and English Teachers

In 1996 the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, will sponsor summer institutes for high school history and English teachers.

For history teachers the Center will offer "Nature Transformed: Imagination and the North American Landscape," an institute that will explore the relationship between the ways men and women have thought about their surroundings and the ways that they have acted toward them. In "The Writing of African American Identity: Self, Race, and Gender," English teachers will have the opportunity to study themes of freedom and identity in twelve key works by African American writers. Both programs will run from June 24 to July 12, 1996.

The National Humanities Center will provide participants with travel expenses, lodging, most meals, texts, and a stipend of \$750. For an application or more information, contact: Summer Institute Office, National Humanities Center, PO Box 12256, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709. 919/ 549-0661. E-mail: summrins@unccecs.edu.

The application deadline is March 15, 1996.

Internships Available

The Council has a number of internship opportunities available for the Spring for undergraduate and graduate students in humanities disciplines. Opportunities exist in each of the Council's offices. Interested students should contact Margo McBane or Khisna Griffin in the Los Angeles office (213/623-5993) or Alden Mudge in the San Francisco office (415/391-1474).

Smithsonian Institution Fellowships in Museum Practice

Proposals are invited for the fifth annual Fellowships in Museum Practice program, a professional development opportunity dedicated to helping museums increase their expertise and leadership. An award enables experienced staff to spend time at the Smithsonian conducting research on a topic of importance to the field. Fellowships are individually designed. Applications are accepted until February 16, 1996 for projects beginning after October 15, 1996. For guidelines and application procedures, contact Nancy Fuller, Center for Museum Studies, Smithsonian Institution, MRC-427, Washington, D.C. 20560; telephone: 202/357-3101; fax: 202/357-3346; e-mail: ompem016@sivm.si.edu

CITIZENSHIP *continued*

Our Search for What to Value

Finally, the search for values and the language to express them can lead to prejudice and intolerance. Fascism followed in the wake of 19th century Romanticism, a treasure trove of humanistic tendencies. However the humanities also provide antidotes for these tendencies. They not only help us

define our own universe, but also introduce us to other "universes." They teach empathy, offer alternative "structures of feeling," and search for universals. In *The Souls of Black Folk*, W.E.B. DuBois glimpsed behind the veil of race; he forged an empathetic link that bloomed into the bi-racial Civil Rights movement.

The humanities aid our search for what to value. If we are to re-

establish a life together, we must enrich our understanding of ourselves, learn to communicate what we believe, and appreciate beliefs which differ from our own. We are not the first multi-cultural generation nor are we without contemporaries worthy of consideration. Our republic must review its humanistic treasures and revisit the language of goals.

DISCUSS "CITIZENSHIP AND THE HUMANITIES" ONLINE

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Humanities News

Chair and New Council Members Announced

At its December meeting in Los Angeles, the Council elected Robert Benedetti, dean of the College of the Pacific, the liberal arts college within the University of the Pacific in Stockton, as chair of the Council. Benedetti succeeds Jay Mechling, professor of American Studies at UC Davis. He will serve a two-year term beginning in March.

At the same meeting, the Council selected four new members who begin their three-year terms in March of 1996.



Ruth Bloom is the owner of Ruth Bloom Gallery in Santa Monica. She brings extensive experience in education and community work to the board, having been an elementary school teacher in the 1970s, a trustee of the Los Angeles Board of Education from 1980 to 1989, and a member of the California Legislature's Task Force on Arts Education from 1987 to 1991. Bloom also currently serves on the advisory board of the Los Angeles Children's Museum and the board of directors of the Venice Family Clinic. In 1988 she was president of the California County Boards of Education. She has also been a commis-

sioner on the Children-Youth Mental Health Association, a member of the Joint Powers Board for the L.A. County High School for the Arts, and a member of the Curators Council for the Los Angeles Museum of Art. Bloom is the recipient of a number of awards for distinguished service to the educational community. She holds a master's degree in educational psychology from California State University at Northridge and a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Southern California.

Mary Curtin is the sole proprietor of a firm specializing in community and governmental relations located in Riverside. She currently serves as a board member on the Federation of State Humanities Councils, the organization representing the state humanities councils in Washington, D.C., and is on the advisory board of the Salvation Army. Curtin previously served on the CCH board from 1984 to 1988 and is the first alumna to be re-elected to the board. From 1975 to 1987, Curtin was executive officer for the Central Labor Council of the AFL-CIO of San Bernardino and Riverside counties, in which capacity she represented approximately 100,000 workers in the region. Curtin has also been a very active volunteer for diverse community non-profit organizations, helping to develop the Inland Empire Educational Foundation's Humanities Division, a coalition of humanities organizations supported by CCH, as well as serving on the local boards of Habitat for Humanity, the League of Women Voters, the San Bernardino-Riverside Urban League, and Survive Food Bank. Curtin has also been a teacher at Riverside Community College. She holds a master's degree from UC Riverside.

Kevin Starr is the State Librarian of California, a professor in the School of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Southern California, and a contributing editor for the *Los Angeles Times*. He is the author of a number of award-winning books, including *Endangered Dreams: The Great Depression in California*, *Material Dreams: Southern California Through the 1920s*, *Over California*, and *Land's End*, as well as numerous prefaces, book chapters, articles and reviews on all aspects of social, cultural, political, and religious affairs. In 1978 he was the Rome/Vatican correspondent for the Hearst newspapers. Starr has also been a senior consultant for Hill and Knowlton, USA in San Francisco and the principal in Kevin Starr Associates. He has taught at Harvard University, UC Berkeley and UC Davis, served as the executive aide to the mayor of San Francisco and as the city librarian of San Francisco. His awards include a Danforth Fellowship to Harvard, and a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. In 1986 he was elected a fellow of the Society of American Historians and, in 1987, a fellow of the American Antiquarian Society. Starr received his master's degree and his doctorate from Harvard University and holds a bachelors degree from the University of San Diego.



Patricia A. Turner is an associate professor in both the African-American and African Studies and the American Studies programs at UC Davis. She is the author of *Ceramic Uncles and Celluloid Mammies: Black Images and Their Influence on Culture* and *I Heard It Through the Grapevine: Rumor in African American Culture*, as well as numerous articles on topics in American folklore and the significance of contemporary images in the media. Turner also serves on the board of Signifyin' Works, the group that continues to manage the documentary films of Marlon Riggs after his death, and as first vice president of the California Folklore Society. Turner was a consulting scholar on several of Marlon Riggs' documentaries, including the award-winning films, *Color Adjustment* and *Black Is...Black Ain't*. In 1994 she was elected a fellow of the Davis Humanities Institute. She was voted Outstanding Faculty Member by the UC Davis Delta Sigma Theta Sorority chapter in 1992 and has been nominated this year for the Distinguished Teacher Award. Before accepting her position at UC Davis, Turner was assistant professor in the Black Studies department at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Turner received her master's degree and her doctorate from UC Berkeley.

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